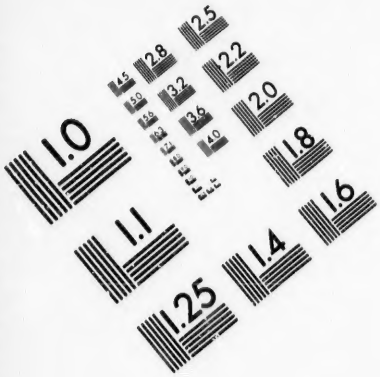

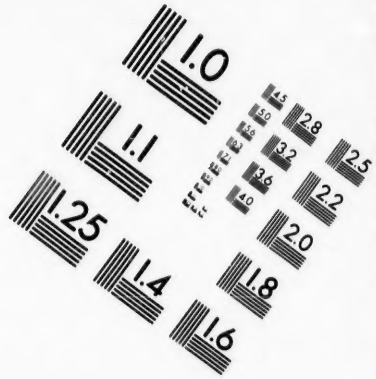

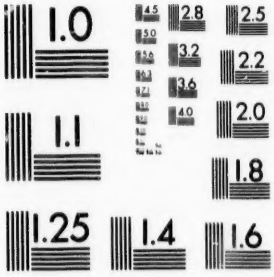

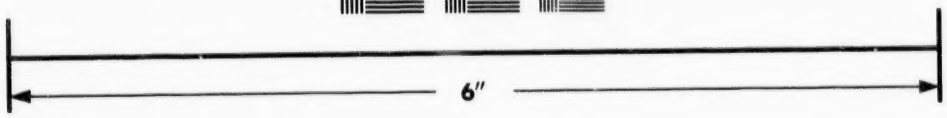

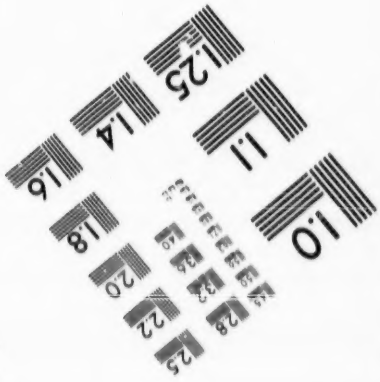

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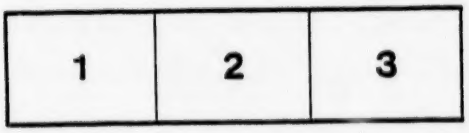

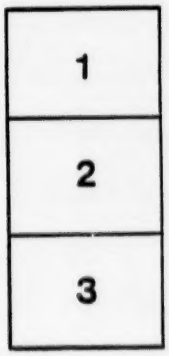

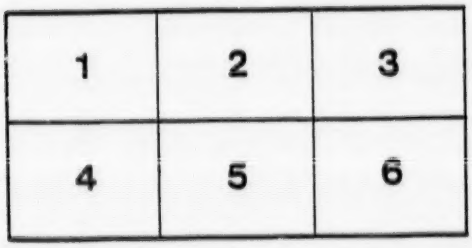

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RULES

OF THE

HALIFAX

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

Established 12th January, 1866.

Place of Business, No. 193 Barrington Street.

HALIFAX, N. S.
PRINTED AT THE ABSTAINER OFFICE.
1866.

OFFICERS.

JAMES MARTIN, *President.*
MICHAEL O'BRIEN, *Vice-President.*
ROBT. JAS. WILSON, *Secretary.*
JOHN HEENAN, *Treasurer.*

Board of Directors.

M. J. CLINTON. W. WILLIAMS.
J. GWATKIN. J. GRIFFIN.
E. FLANIGAN. J. REARDON.
G. W. JACKSON.

Finance Committee.

R. STEWART. P. MONAGHAN.
S. O'DONOGHUE.

WM. WILSON, *Manager of Store.*
M. HEENAN, *Assistant.*

33867

Halifax Co-Operative Society.

In order to improve and promote the welfare of the working classes of this city and vicinity, and the intellectual and moral advancement of the same, thereby fostering habits of prudence, industry and sobriety, we have determined to organize ourselves into a Society, to be known as the "Halifax Co-operative Society," the objects of which shall be to provide a safe and profitable investment for the small savings of the working man; the capital arising therefrom to be devoted to the purchase of food, clothing, and other necessaries, at wholesale prices; retailing the same at ordinary rates to the members and the general public. We hereby agree to be governed by the following code of rules:

1. The name of this Society shall be the Halifax Co-operative Society.

2. No person shall be admitted as a member of the Society, except by the Board of Directors, to whom his name shall be submitted by a member. On signing the rules and paying an entrance fee of one dollar, he shall become a member; but shall not take any part at any meeting, vote on any question, or receive any benefits, until he shall have deposited with the Board of Directors five dollars additional,

which shall be held as a share in the funds of the Society. If said deposit be not made within five weeks after being admitted, his name shall, by order of the Board of Directors, be erased from the list of members.

3. Quarterly meetings of the Society shall be held on the second Monday of January, April, July and October. Special meetings shall be called by the President, when deemed necessary by the Board of Directors; and he shall call special meetings at any time, upon a requisition signed by ten members. At least three days' notice (specifying the business to be transacted,) shall be given of all special meetings. No business shall be transacted at any special meeting, except that for which it was summoned.

4. The election of officers shall be by ballot; and a majority at any meeting may also decide that any other question be determined by ballot.

5. In the election of officers, and in the determination of any question, each member shall have but one vote, irrespective of the number of shares held by him.

6. The government of the Society shall be vested in a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, with a Board of Directors consisting of seven members, and a Finance Committee consisting of three members, all of whom shall be elected at the annual meeting, on the second Monday in January, by ballot. The President and Vice-President of the Society shall be *ex officio* members of the Board of Directors.

7. It shall be the duty of the President to preside over all meetings of the Society and of the Board of Director —preserve order therein,—put all questions,—announce all decisions,—and, in case of an equal division, give the casting

vote. He shall also receive and safely preserve all bonds which the Society may require of its officers. He shall sign all documents or certificates issued by the Society or Board of Directors. He may appoint such temporary subordinate officers from time to time, as may be deemed expedient for the promotion of order, or for the good of the Society.

8. It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to perform the duties of President, in case of the temporary absence of that officer; also to perform the duties of the chair when called upon by the President. In case of the death or resignation of the President, he shall perform the duties of that officer until a President be chosen by the Society.

9. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to attend all the meetings of the Society, and of the Board of Directors,—keep a correct record of the proceedings thereof, (which record shall be open at the meetings of the Society for the inspection of any member),—notify all officers of their election, and all members appointed on committees,—serve all such other notices as appertain to the office, or as he may be directed by the Society or Board of Directors,—attest all documents or certificates issued by the Society or Board of Directors, and signed by the President,—countersign all orders drawn on the Treasurer,—and file all bills or documents ordered to be filed. In case of the absence of both President and Vice-President, he shall call the meeting to order, and request the members to appoint a Chairman. He shall have charge of all property not otherwise disposed of; and shall deliver to his successor in office all property belonging to the Society, in his possession. He shall receive the entrance fees, fines, and other moneys due the Society, and pay the same over to the Treasurer, taking his receipt therefor; and shall, on all occasions, in the execution of his

ffice, act under the superintendence and control of the Board of Directors, and shall give such security as may be thought sufficient by them. He shall receive from the funds of the Society a salary, which is to be in full for his services, not exceeding $——.

10. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all moneys of the Society from the Secretary and Storekeepers, and give receipts therefor in books to be kept for that purpose,—pay out said money only on orders signed by at least two of the Directors, and countersigned by the Secretary, for all sums not exceeding three hundred dollars; and, in no case, to pay an order to any Director, unless the order presented by the Director, shall have been signed by a majority of Directors,—keep an accurate account of all the funds so received and paid out, which account shall be open to the inspection of the Directors, or any of them, when desired,—close his accounts, and pass them, at the end of every quarter, to the Finance Committee, for their inspection, —report to the Society every quarter what money has been received, and what paid out, and the balance in treasury: and, for the faithful discharge of his duties, the Treasurer shall give bonds as the Directors shall approve. He shall receive from the funds of the Society, a salary, which is to be in full for his services, not exceeding $——.

11. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to transact all affairs of the Society,—examine and pass upon all bills,—have a supervision over all expenses,—hire, discharge and superintend the storekeepers and attendants,—assign to any such officers and persons such duties and salaries as they think fit,—regulate and fix the per centage or prices on all goods, for the guidance of the storekeepers,—draw all orders on the Treasurer,—take an account of stock, and

report the same, with its value, and the condition of the store, to the Society at the end of every quarter,—submit their books and bills, quarterly, to the Finance Committee for their examination,—and have a general supervision over all the affairs of the Society. They shall establish a store, or depot, for the sale of groceries, provisions, &c.—select a suitable person, not a member of the Society, who shall act as manager in the purchase and sale of goods at the store. They shall require bonds from the manager to such an amount as they may decide. They shall appoint all assistants necessary, from time to time; such assistants not to be members of the Society.

12. The Board of Directors shall meet weekly, throughout the year, and shall not commence business unless five of the Board be present. It shall, in all things, act for the Society and in its name; and all acts and orders, under the powers delegated to it, shall have the like force and effect as if they were the acts and orders of a majority of the members of the Society, at a general meeting thereof. Every question, at such meeting, shall be decided by a majority of votes; and, if the votes be equal, the President, or Chairman acting in his absence, shall have the casting vote, only.

13. It shall be the duty of the Finance Committee to audit, monthly, the accounts of the Secretary, Treasurer, and Board of Directors; and carefully examine and investigate the finances of the Society, and report quarterly; and also to submit such measures as they may deem likely to improve the finances. And, for this purpose, they are to have free access to all books and papers of the Secretary, Treasurer, Directors, and Storekeepers, and the aid of the persons keeping the same.

14. The permanent fund of the Society shall be held in

shares of five dollars each; each member being permitted to take up from one to ten shares, one of which shall be transferable, and the remainder withdrawable; nevertheless, any person holding ten shares may allow his dividends, &c., to accumulate to additional shares. The funds thus constituted, shall be held as the capital of the Society, and shall be invested under the direction of the Board of Directors, in goods, &c., to be sold at the store or depot.

15. A share register book shall be kept by the Secretary, in which shall be entered the following particulars:—the christian and surname, place of residence, profession or business, and date of entrance of each member, with the number and value of each share, the date when the member became such, and the date of withdrawal or transfer of any share.

16. Any member may, with the consent of the Board of Directors, transfer his share or shares to any other person, upon giving notice to the Secretary; such notice to contain the christian and surname, place of abode, and profession or business of the proposed transferee, and the consideration to be paid for the transfer. No transfer, however, shall be valid, except the same shall be confirmed at a meeting of the Board of Directors. All transfers shall be in the following form, viz.:—I, of in consideration of the sum of dollars paid to me by of do hereby transfer to the said share numbered in the Halifax Co-Operative Society, standing in my name in the books of the Society, to hold unto the said his executors, administrators and assigns, (or successors and assigns,) subject to the several conditions on which I held the same at the time of the execution thereof. And I, the said do

hereby agree to take the said share, subject to the same conditions.

As witness our hands the day of

17. Any member desiring to withdraw from the Society, shall be allowed to do so, upon presenting a written request to the Board of Directors, when all sums paid in as withdrawable shares, and all benefits arising therefrom, up to the declaring of the last dividend, shall be paid within one month.

18. Each member shall receive out of the receipts of the Society (after providing for the expenses thereof,) in each quarter, interest not exceeding six per cent. per annum upon every paid-up share standing to his account in the books of the Society, such interest to begin from the first of the month following the payment in full of his share or shares.

19. The net proceeds of all business carried on by the Society, after providing for the expenses of management, the proper reduction in the value of fixed stock, and for such interest upon the subscribed capital as aforesaid, shall, from time to time, be applied by direction of the regular quarterly meetings, either to increase the capital or business of the Society, or be divided among the members in proportion to the amount of their purchases at the store during the quarter.

20. In case of the death of a member, the Board of Directors shall cause to be paid to the widow, family, or legal representative of deceased, the share or shares held by said member, and all the benefits due at the time of his death. Or, at the option of the widow, she may continue to avail herself of all the privileges and benefits of the Society, which had belonged to her late husband, as long as she remains a widow, provided these provisions do not conflict with the Will of the deceased.

21. The Board of Directors may suspend any member who persists in conduct injurious to the Society, until they submit the same to a general meeting of the Society; and if the charge against such member be sustained, the Society may expel the member. Any member, so expelled, shall receive the amount of his share or shares, and all interest and dividends due at the time of declaring the last dividend, except in case of fraud.

22. In the case of any dispute or complaint, the grievance may be referred to the Board of Directors for settlement. Appeal may be had to the Society, whose decision shall be final.

23. All members shall be entitled to equal rights and privileges at the store.

24. A member of the Society, wishing to trade at the store, shall be supplied with a pass book, said book to bear the seal of the Society; and all purchases made by said member, for the use of himself or family, or in case he is not keeping house, or has no family, all purchases made for the use of his landlord or landlady, shall be entered in the pass book.

25. Said pass book to be compared with the book of the manager or storekeeper, at least once a month, and its correctness attested by the Finance Committee.

26. Said pass book shall not be transferable, except as provided in Rule 24.

27. No member shall receive dividends on purchases not entered in the pass book.

28. Any member applying for a pass book, shall be subject to a charge equal to the cost of the same.

29. No credit will be given at the store: all sales must be cash.

30. At all meetings of the Society, thirteen members, exclusive of office-bearers, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

31. No intoxicating liquors shall be bought or sold in the name of the Society.

32. All retiring officers, at the expiration of their term of office, shall deliver to their respective successors in office, all money or other property, of whatever nature, they may have in their possession, belonging to the Society.

33. These rules may be amended or added to at any regular meeting of the Society, provided that a notice in writing, of such amendment or addition, be given at the previous regular meeting, and that two-thirds of the members present vote in favor of the change.

34. The Society shall not be dissolved while there are twenty members in good standing who desire to continue it.

35. Each member paying in his money for a share or shares, shall receive a certificate for the same, signed by the President, Secretary, and one Director.

36. No member shall be liable for any amount over his share or shares. And the Society shall not be responsible for the debts of any member beyond the amount of his share or shares.

37. Order of Business at meetings of the Society:—

1. Reading and approving the minutes of previous meeting.
2. Report of the Board of Directors.
3. Report of the Treasurer.
4. Report of Finance Committee.

5 Report of other Committees, if any.
6. Unfinished business of any previous meeting.
7. New Business.
8. Adjournment.

38. In construing these rules, words importing a male shall be taken to apply to a female; words importing one person or thing only, shall be taken to apply to more than one person or thing; and words importing a class shall be taken to imply the majority of that class, unless there be something in the context to prevent such a construction.

AN ACT

TO INCORPORATE THE

HALIFAX CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY,

Passed 7th May, 1866.

Be it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Assembly, as follows:—

1. The following persons, that is to say, James Martin, Michael O'Brien, Robt. Jas. Wilson, John Heenan, Michael J. Clinton, William Williams, Jas. Gwatkin, Jas. Griffin, Edward Flanigan, Jas. Reardon, George W. Jackson, and all such other persons as now are or shall hereafter become members of this Society, and their successors, shall be a body corporate, by the name of the HALIFAX CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

2. The objects of the Society shall be the improvement and promotion of the welfare of the working classes of the city of Halifax and vicinity, by providing a safe and profitable investment for the small savings of the working man, in such manner as is set forth in the rules of the Society.

3. The Society shall not, at any time, hold real estate of greater value than forty thousand dollars.

4. No member of the Society shall be liable in his person or separate estate for the debts of the Society, to a greater amount in the whole than the amount of stock held by him, deducting therefrom the amount actually paid to the Company on account of such stock, unless he shall have rendered himself liable for a greater amount by becoming surety for the debts of the Society.

5. The Society shall be governed by a Board of Directors of not less than nine members comprising a President and Secretary, and such other officers as may be designated in the rules of the Society, to be chosen at the annual general meeting, by a majority of the members present thereat, according to the regulations now in force in the Society, or hereafter to be made with respect to office-bearers.

6. At the annual meeting three of the Directors of the past year shall be re-elected for the ensuing year; the remaining four shall also be eligible for re-election.

7. The annual general meeting of the Society shall be held on the second Monday of January in each year, at which meeting the officers shall be elected by ballot,—provided that vacancies may be filled at the first regular meeting of the Society after the occurrence of such vacancy.

8. It shall not be necessary in consequence of this Act to re-appoint any of the persons now managing the affairs of the Society as office-bearers thereof, but they shall continue to act for the period for which they were appointed.

9. All the rules of the Society now in force shall continue in force after the passing of this Act, until they shall have been set aside, altered or added to, in accordance with Rule 33.

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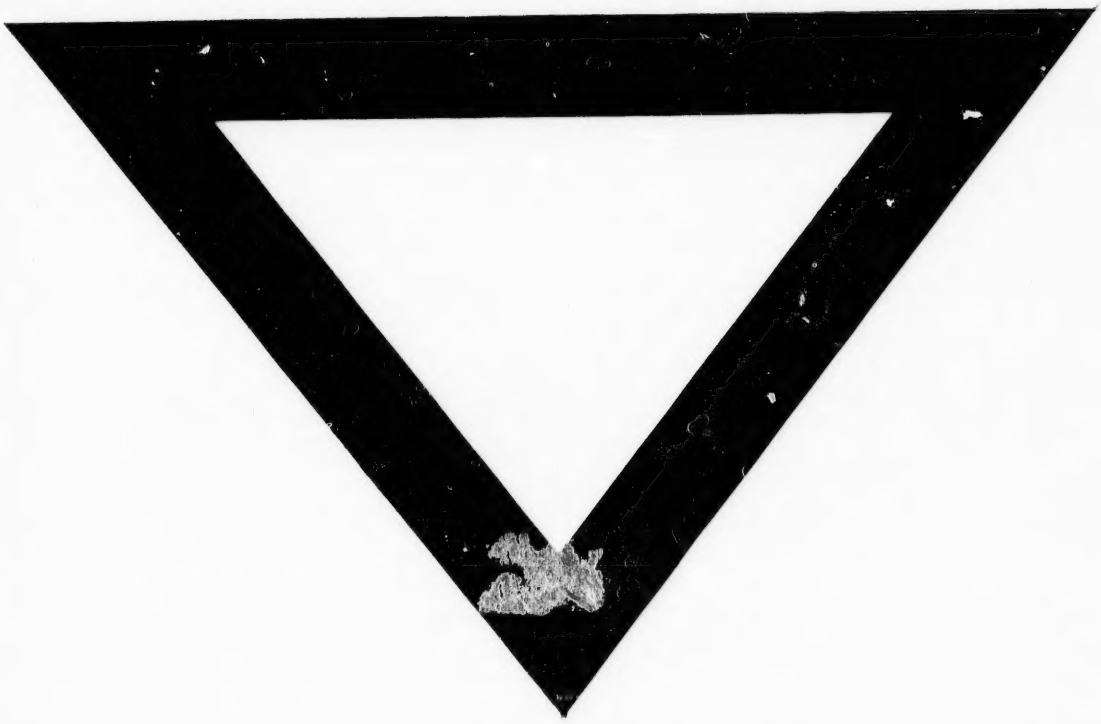
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